

principal not only a loyal assistant in every phase of his manifold and frequently trying duties, but has proved a wise counselor in all of the most delicate matters, and exhibiting in emergencies a quality of judgment and diplomatic calmness rarely found in men of riper maturity or more extended experience. As far as one individual can fill the place of another, Mr. Scott has acted in the principal's stead at Tuskegee, seeing with



Emmett J. Scott

the principal's eyes, hearing with the principal's ears, and counting no sacrifice too great to be made for Tuskegee's welfare." This tribute is well deserved.

Mr. Scott was born in Houston, Tex., February 13, 1873, and attended the public schools until he was fourteen, when he entered Wiley University, Marshall, Tex., graduating in 1890, with honors.

He began work as janitor of the Houston *Daily Post* building, and was later given opportunity to do some clerical work. He was promoted to office work and remained with the *Post* three years, retiring with the confidence and good will of the management to engage in the publication of the *Texas Freeman*, which was continued until he was called to Tuskegee in 1897.

The story of his life since that time is the story of Tuskegee and its work. With Dr. Washington he was one of the founders, at Boston, in 1900, of the National Business League, and has been its corresponding secretary nearly all the time since its organization. Next to Dr. Washington, he has been the most influential factor in the direction and development of the league.

He was appointed a member of the United States Commission to Liberia, to take the place of Dr. Washington, who was originally appointed as the Negro member of the commission. President Taft felt that he desired Dr. Washington to remain in this country during the early days of his administration that he might confer with him upon matters relating to the Negro people.

The report of the work of this commission indicates that Mr. Scott was a most efficient member, and that he rendered high-class service, realizing the expectations of his friends, who saw in this opportunity a new avenue of service for the Negro.

James C. Napier

Nashville, Tenn.

LAWYER, banker, chairman executive committee National Negro Business League. Born near Nashville, June 9, 1848.

Received his early education in the public schools and in 1859 went to Wilberforce University, thence to Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio, where he remained until

near the completion of his junior college year, when he left school to accept a position in the government service, war department, in Washington. In 1873 he was graduated from the law department of Howard University and was admitted to the District of Columbia bar.



James C. Napier

He passed a civil service examination and became a clerk in the bureau of the sixth auditor, the first of his race in that branch of government service.

After one promotion he was appointed revenue agent for Kentucky, Alabama, Tennessee, and Louisiana, and later returned to Nashville to become an internal revenue department gauger. In 1878 he married a daughter of Hon. John M. Langston, then United States minister to Hayti.

Immediately following his retirement from the government service, on the election of President Cleveland, he began the practice of law in Nashville and has been engaged there ever since. He was four times elected a member of the City Council of Nashville, and succeeded in securing the appointment of Negro teachers in the Negro public schools, the erection of new and additional school buildings, and the increase of the educational and financial condition of the colored people.

In addition to his law practice, Mr. Napier is cashier of the Penny Savings Bank, of which Rev. Dr. R. H. Boyd is president, and he is a large property owner. He is interested in the business movements of the race, and has been for several years chairman of the executive committee of the National Negro Business League. He has been active in political affairs, has been a member of the Republican state executive committee nearly twenty years, and has four times been a delegate to the Republican National Convention, an unusual honor. He is regarded as one of the most substantial colored citizens of Tennessee.